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8 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Development Branch, DFD-SD/P

SUBJECT : Test Documents for the A-12

1. Some of the types of documents considered useful by other responsible development agencies in the management of system flight testing are test plans, test programs and reports. These documents aid in the exercise of all management functions in the development and test cycle and aid in insuring that the complete system will perform the mission for which intended. In our position of responsible development agency for the A-12, the documents listed would prove quite helpful. The knowledge accrued by our review and coordination of such documents will allow programs and requirements to be acknowledged and scheduled in a more orderly manner than otherwise. These documents also tend to eliminate the omission of test requirements which might otherwise be overlooked or disregarded. While it is realized that some variations in test requirements and schedules will occur almost daily, over-all plans for test accomplishment will vary little if the equipment undergoing test is reasonably adequate.

2. The content of each of the documents should be generally as follows:

(a) Test plan

(1) Detailed identification of:

- (a) Test objectives
- (b) Schedule milestones
- (c) Reports required

(2) Establishes test concepts to be employed

(3) Identifies support and reporting responsibilities of all participants.

(b) Test program

The test program outlines in detail the tests that are to be conducted and how they are to be flown. There may be several of these test programs, each of which covers a specific test phase, for each Test Plan. Details such as the number of test conditions required, altitudes, weights, eg locations, maneuvers required and readings necessary for each condition are

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predetermined and included so that flying time may be utilized as efficiently as possible. These programs cannot normally be followed exactly; they do provide a reasonably complete set of requirements for review by the responsible development agency to assure adequacy. Instrumentation planning is based on the test program. Flight cards showing tests to be accomplished on individual flights are made up from the test program.

(c) Reports

Weekly progress reports, schedule milestone reports, a final report and, as required, special reports should be adequate. Contents of each are, in general, as follows:

(1) Weekly progress. Usually made on a printed form for each test program. Shows program status and progress during week with a brief narrative discussion of accomplishments. Should indicate tentative plans for following week so as to warn of hazardous tests and to indicate aircraft utilization. Should provide information for maintenance of progress charts.

(2) Schedule milestones. Made as milestones described in test plan occur, preferably by electrical transmission.

(3) Final. Made up at termination of program and used as a historical document. Data gathered during program should be concurrently disseminated and used as required; this report summarizes all information gathered, method of gathering, conditions under which gathered, processing methods and corrections applied.

(4) Special. May be electrically transmitted, to indicate problems, delays, basis for requesting assistance or other need for immediate transmission. May be special subject reports which do not require electrical transmission.

4. Responsibilities for preparation and distribution of the documents is stereotyped for some cases, not clear in others. First, the question of whether such documents are required or desired in any program should be decided. Discussion of each follows.

(a) Test plans. It would be possible for either Development Branch, DPD or Lockheed, Burbank, or both jointly, to prepare a master test plan, if such a document is desired. Individual contractor or DPD test plans can be provided for some tests.

(b) Test programs and reports. These are normally a responsibility of the test agency. Test programs should be written and approved by DPD Field Office prior to effort.

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initiation. Format and content of reports can be specified to provide full information on any phase of testing.

5. Contract coverage may be necessary in some cases, may already be contained in others. Determination of what documentation to implement is required, with responsibility therefor defined. Comments and discussion requested.

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